ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data communications device that can operate in accordance with two or more protocols having different data formats and error-protection schemes. The protocol-dependent aspects of the device are handled by a peripheral portion of the device, allowing a substantially protocol-independent core portion that is insulated from protocol changes. Translation and/or adaptation mechanisms in the peripheral portion of the device allow the device to handle changes in data format and/or pipeline changes such as error protection without affecting the core portion of the device. A device and method are provided for inter-operating with both the Spatial Reuse Protocol (SRP) and the Resilient Packet Ring (RPR) architectures.

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